

Dublin April 10 - 1863

Dear Mr May

Your letter announcing the transmission of the
bundle of Tracts Boston was dated I think Feb. 20. While
I did not get the parcel till two days ago. It was
nearly a fortnight in Liverpool and there was some
correspondence with Mr. James in consequence of my
having no bill of lading or receipt for the parcel. However
it is all right now - except that for want of referring
to your letter I made a blunder about the right way
the safe way, and sent away some copies to different
quarters before I found out my mistake. I don't think
Miss Wigham will be hard on me when I tell her how
the error occurred - for she is very merciful. The letter
which I quoted in the Standard & of which you disapproved
was one from her to me. I don't believe there is a more
sincere abolitionist in America than she is - and she is
an energetic, thoughtful, sensible woman into the bargain.
But there is no denying it that even the abolition papers
are full of particulars of northern injustice & cruelty to
the colored race that are enough to make people here
find it hard to see much difference between South &
North. Many here who are no hypocrites, who sym-
pathize with freedom & fair play, who detect Southern
pretences & Southern wickedness, are puzzled & stumbled by
the intense hostility of so many of the Northerners to the
unhappy colored people. All I can gather from reports the
contrabands leads me to believe that if they had the
really fair treatment they would be a powerful aid
to the Federal cause - but I fear the hatred with which
the colored race is regarded will prove a terrible drawback
to northern success.

If I know myself I am quite as much of a wife sister
to America as to England - I look upon the future
of your country as more important to the good of
the human race than that of any one recorded
justice & humanity have had play amongst men.
But of this I am not confident. Witness the conduct
of those freely. When such an apostle of liberty
talks as he has lately done, what can we hope for
the multitude. A friend of mine, a man of un-
common intelligence & high character, told me a few
days since to make his words that if the North
conquers the South, we shall have a federal union
& conquest of Canada within the five months. He was
not sure for the love of Canada. I imagine few on
this side would care - for it would be no loss to us
either in point of national strength or pecuniary
benefit - but it would not be without a war, which
the English people by no means wish for. I am sure
George Thompson is doing a good work - one in which
he is quite at home for which he is better fitted than
any man in England. I presume the friends of
the Emancipation Society enable him to travel about
& carry on the war. You know he is a very poor
man - he is one of those people who are never anything
but needy. His wife is a bad woman & so he is he - &
besides this he is generous & charitable. The fact
that he is a man without recognized position or
any visible means of living makes him greatly
respected here in English opinion. He is looked
on as an adventurer, & thus took away from his
influence as a member of the House of Commons.
I think you hinted in your last letter that help
would not be unacceptable to him. I am pretty sure

I would not. I am sure he is a true friend to
the United States & that there is no truer friend
of the American slave & colored man. With
his talents I do not doubt that he might have
often sold himself for a very good price.

I wish to say that at the end of Mrs Childs
report of the subscription. Concerning the sum
a perfectly correct ~~and~~ explanation of the
difficulties in the way of larger help from Eng-
land this last year. Application was made quite
too late and through the usual channel - and
things of this kind run so much in a groove
in these countries that similar success was
out of the question. Things seemed unhinged on
your side - and here there was great distress
arising chiefly from your troubles. I know you
may say that the slaveholders were to be blamed
for this - ~~but~~ it is true but people in difficulties
do not reason with much exactness. We must
only hope that good will come out of all this
unhappiness.

I got a good speech from Amasa Walker
entitled "Cotton not Slavery the cause of the war"
It contained much that I liked - besides a strong
opinion in which I coincide that if the truth
be left with Slavery ~~it~~ not destroyed, we may
have to wait long enough before we see the
end of it.

W. L. G. sent me a set of photographs for
which I am greatly obliged. They are most
interesting in themselves & beautifully presented. I
wish he had sent Mrs Garrison's of whom I have heard so
often - and always with high praise, as a worthy helpmeet.

When you write word with you the we know
you are getting on at Cairo - or is he ~~the~~ gone
elsewhere. I have heard nothing for a
long time of E. Quincy, P. Pillsbury or H. C. Wright.

Within the last few months I have had a
dull time. My domestic life has created a great
vacuum. The world has been as it were stepping
from under my feet - and with the exception of
American affairs I have not felt the same
interest in the events of the day as I used to do.

One grand result of the public interest in Amer-
ica is that it has called forth the two eminent
Professors Johnson Smith & Francis Pickens
Newman, as well as Professor Cairnes into active
existence to influence public opinion in behalf
of the good cause in the United States. The voices
of such men have great power with the thoughtful
& the educated portions of the community. We
hear of the cat of war from your side & some cor-
responding talk here. I hope all sensible people with you
as they do with us will discontinue ever such
things. No real good could be done by a war, and
your best & truest friend on our side would be the
chief almost the only real sufferer. I allude to
the working people & the poorer classes generally.

Accept thanks you for the Hygiene Book which he is
well pleased to get. It is a warm friend of the cause.
He says that tho' he packed up the Blue Banners & thinks
he reckoned them twice, he is not sure, but rather thinks
he had made a mistake there ~~that~~ suspect the ~~condition~~
antiquarian offices of having abstracted me. So you can
conceive that you have only got 76.

I sent the 7th Ed. of Cairnes Lectures by post. But it not
being a periodical it most likely was stopped in the
Post Office here. The rules between the two countries
as to all but newspapers are very strict.

You are under no obligation for any advantage you have
by the exchange. We lend our money & the more you can
make of it for your purposes the more pleased we have
to be glad of your success.

When 20 millions of people here attempt to judge of
20 millions there with 3000 miles of sea between them
we are liable to make all kinds of mistakes. You have
ample ground of emulation amongst our capitalists,
shopkeepers & many of our rulers - but there a great
many others are friendly to you there so that we must
attend to your own population. We must at least
all thoughtful humane people wish under such
circumstances ~~to~~ to have good relations with one
another. I am here on the spot - and yet I am in a
constant hot & cold fit of disgust and indignation
with sentiments of one kind - alternating with delight
with sentiments of another kind & on better authority
all referring to America.

With kindest regards to all our many
friends if any there be - I am ever yours
affectionately

Richd Burbb

I wrote by hand lately to Dr Whipple thanking him for his excellent letter, in which I cordially coincide. I think Russell has had hard measure on your side. He has given strong anti-slavery testimony - and when we were baptizing in India & in the Crimea he was quite an outspoken.

